



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1611-F1577
File No: 16/30926
16 December 2016

Christopher Flynn
foi+request-2719-502bdbbc@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Flynn

Re: Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your current request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

the latest document which details the expenditure incurred by the department for computers and communication equipment destroyed upon return to Australia after travel to an untrusted country. Including the costs of destruction.

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make access decisions, and have been appointed to be the decision-maker on your request as required by departmental procedures.

Decision

After considering the terms of your request, I have decided neither to confirm nor deny the existence of any documents relevant to your request, as provided for in section 25 of the FOI Act. If any such document existed, it would be exempt from release under s33(a)(i) of the FOI Act.

Section 26 of the FOI Act provides that where access to a document has been denied in full or in part, a statement must be provided to the applicant setting out findings on material questions of fact, the material on which those findings were based, and the reasons for the decision. Please find this information below.

Material considered

The material on which my decision is based includes:

- your request;
- the FOI Act; and
- the Guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act.

Reasons for my decision, including any material findings of fact

The reasons for my decision are set out below.

Section 33(a)(i) of the FOI Act provides as follows:

A document is an exempt document if disclosure of the document under this Act:

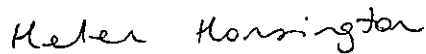
- a) would, or could reasonably be expected to, cause damage to
 - i. the security of the Commonwealth**

The material in question, if it existed, would be exempt from release as comment on operational security matters, including confirming or denying details of cybersecurity practices and procedures, could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security of the Commonwealth.

Your review rights are attached.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact foi@dfat.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Helen Horsington
Director
FOI & Privacy Law Section

Your review rights

Internal review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of my access decision. Your request in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter should be directed to:

Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

Australian Information Commissioner

Under the provisions of section 54L of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review by the Australian Information Commissioner of my access decision. You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner under section 70 on the Department's performance of its functions or the exercise of power under the FOI Act.

Your request for review or complaint should be directed to:

GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone: 1300 363 992
Fax: (02) 9284 9666
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning actions taken by an agency in the exercise of its powers or, more specifically, the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint.

You may complain to the Ombudsman by calling or writing to:

Commonwealth Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 1300 362 072
Fax: (02) 6249 7829